Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended)   A device for processing information in a database, comprising:

[[-]] means for ~~the selection of~~ selecting data of the database ~~(5)~~ according to selection criteria,

[[-]] and means for arranging ~~the~~ selected data in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions which can receive data elements that are representative of the selected data,

wherein [[it]] the device comprises:

means for pre-defining at least one related representation area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

means for specifying at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

means for positioning the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data bootstraping element,

means for successively determining new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the selected data,

and means for automatically and successively positioning of at least a part of the new data elements in the related representation area, at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions are not ~~be~~ already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined by the device for processing information at each user request, [[.]]

~~said~~ wherein the means for selecting data ~~selection means~~ including the ~~initial specification~~ means for specifying and the means for successively determining~~successive determination means~~, and the ~~arrangement~~ means for arranging including the means for pre-defining~~predefinition~~, the means for

positioning the data bootstrapping element ~~positioning~~ and the means for automatically and successively ~~successive~~ positioning ~~means~~.

2. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~successive determination and successive positioning~~ means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided to form neighborhood cards centered on the data elements already positioned, each of the neighborhood cards centered on one of the data elements already positioned giving data elements neighboring the data element in accordance with the proximity order relation, and to select the new data elements from the neighboring data elements and to place them in the related representation area corresponding to the data element already positioned at positions neighboring the data element.

3. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ~~successive determination and successive positioning~~ means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided to place the neighboring data elements at positions relative to the data element in the related representation area, which correspond to the positions relative to the data element of the neighboring data elements in the neighborhood card.

4. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ~~successive determination and successive positioning~~ means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided to supply the neighborhood cards to representation means for the attention of the user.

5. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~successive determination~~ means for successively determining are provided to exclude from the new data elements, the data elements already positioned, so as to represent, at the most once, each of the data elements in the representation space.

6. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~successive determination and successive positioning~~ means <u>for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning</u> are provided to determine and position the new <u>data</u> elements as and when there are selections by the user, in the representation space, of positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned.

7. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~successive determination~~ means <u>for successively determining</u> are intended to use, for the proximity order relation, at least one of the relations based on: a number of identical terms in the contents, a number of similar terms for a predefined part of the contents, a difference in dates in the contents, a number of similar graphic patterns in the contents, and a number of similar sound patterns in the contents.

8. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~initial specification~~ means <u>for specifying</u> are provided to specify <u>data</u> bootstrapping element according to a user profile.

9. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for pre-defining the related <u>representation</u> area are provided to allow a user to construct the related <u>representation</u> area.

10. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~initial specification~~ means <u>for specifying</u> are provided, in case of definition of several related <u>representation</u> areas by the ~~predefinition~~ means<u> for pre-defining at least one related representation area</u>, to specify a first data bootstrapping element in one of the related <u>representation</u> areas, then to specify the other <u>data</u> bootstrapping elements from the first <u>data</u> bootstrapping element by means of the proximity order relation.

11. (currently amended) An audiovisual apparatus, ~~wherein it comprises~~ <u>comprising</u> a processing device in accordance with the claim 1, the apparatus being preferentially chosen from a television set, a personal digital assistant and a personal computer.

12. (currently amended)   A method for processing information in a database, comprising ~~the following steps~~:

[[-]]   selection of data from the database according to selection criteria,

[[-]]   and arrangement of the selected data, in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the <u>representation</u> space comprising a plurality of positions that can receive <u>data</u> elements that are representative of the data,

wherein [[it]] <u>the method</u> comprises ~~the steps of~~:

[[-]]   pre-defining at least one representation related area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

[[-]]   specifying at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related <u>representation</u> areas,

[[-]]   positioning the <u>data</u> bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related <u>representation</u> area corresponding to the <u>data</u> element,

[[-]]   successively determining new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related <u>representation</u> area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the data,

[[-]]   and successively positioning of at least a part of new data elements in the related <u>representation</u> area at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions not be already occupied by <u>data</u> elements already positioned, <u>the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined for processing information at each user request,</u>

<u>wherein</u> said selection <u>of data</u> ~~step~~ including the ~~initial specification~~ <u>specifying</u> and successive ~~determination steps~~ <u>determining</u>, and the arrangement ~~step~~ including the ~~predefinition~~ <u>pre-defining, positioning the data</u> bootstrapping element ~~positioning~~ and successive positioning ~~steps~~.

13. (currently amended)   A computer program product, ~~wherein it comprises~~ <u>comprising</u> program code instructions for the execution of ~~the steps of~~ the method as claimed in claim 12 when the program is executed on a computer.